

MINUTES
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL
JANUARY 14, 2014 – 5:30 P.M.
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - PUBLIC SQUARE

ATTENDANCE: **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**- County Council Chairman Jim Coleman and Vice Chairman Edward McDaniel; Council Members, Diane Anderson, Ted Nash, David Pitts, Keith Tollison and Joe Wood.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Laurens County Administrator, Ernest Segars; Laurens County Clerk to Council, Betty C. Walsh and Sandy Cruickshanks, Laurens County Attorney.

ATTENDING - LAURENS COUNTY DEPARTMENT HEADS: Laurens County Public Works Director, Scott Holland, Laurens County Human Resources Manager, Debi Parker and Laurens County Director of Fire Service.

PRESS: The *Laurens County Advertiser*, Corey Engle; *The Clinton Chronicle*, Vic MacDonald, and Iva Cadmus, WLBG-Radio.

SCHEDULED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS – (1) Approval of Agenda, January 14, 2014; (2) Approval of Minutes from the December 10, 2013 Regular Session; (3.) Laurens County Development Corporation Marvin Moss, Executive Director and Jonathan Coleman, Deputy Director Update on Laurens County's Economic Development Program; (4.) Update on the pending construction of a fire station to serve the Ekom Fire District – Greg Lindley, Director of Fire Services1; (5) Administrative Report – Ernie Segars, County Administrator; (6) Public Comment; (7) Comments from Council Members; (8) Executive Session – One (1) Contractual Matter; (9) Adjournment; (10) Immediately following the regular session of Council will be a meeting of The County Council Committee on Finance and Administration.

MEETING NOTIFICATION - The County Council Members, Press and requested public notifications were informed of the meeting in a timely and appropriate manner.

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Coleman called the January 14, 2014 regular scheduled meeting of Council to order at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Laurens County Historic Courthouse.

Chairman Coleman offered an invitation to stand for the invocation and for the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was delivered by Councilman Tollison.

APPROVAL – AGENDA – JANUARY 14, 2014 – Upon a MOTION from COUNCILMAN NASH and a SECOND from COUNCILMAN PITTS the agenda was approved without any additions or deletions; VOTE 7-0.

APPROVAL – MINUTES – DECEMBER 10, 2013 – REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL – Upon a MOTION from COUNCILWOMAN ANDERSON and a SECOND from COUNCILMAN TOLLISON, the minutes from the December 10, 2013 meeting was approved as presented; VOTE 7-0.

LAURENS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – UPDATE ON LAURENS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM – Mr. Marvin Moss, Executive Director of the Laurens County Development Corporation provided Council with a brief update on the activity of the Laurens County's Economic Development Program.

Mr. Moss stated that the mission of the Development Corporation is to ensure Laurens County continues to be a community of “accelerating progress” which focuses on economic opportunities that result in a viable future for all County citizens.

The PowerPoint presentation consisted of the following slides with statistics:

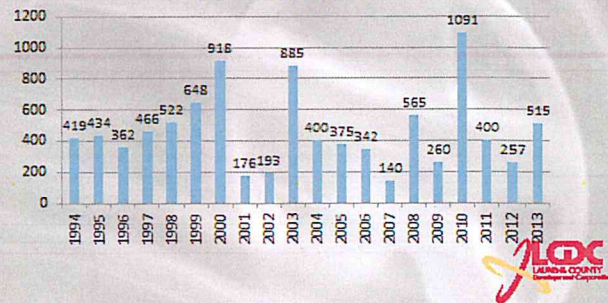
LCDC Functions

- Marketing – Industrial & Retail
- Project Management – Industrial – New/Existing & Retail
- Product Development
- Workforce Development



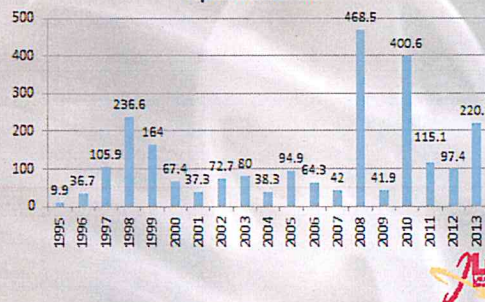
JOBS

New Jobs Announced



Investment

Capital Investment



2008-2013

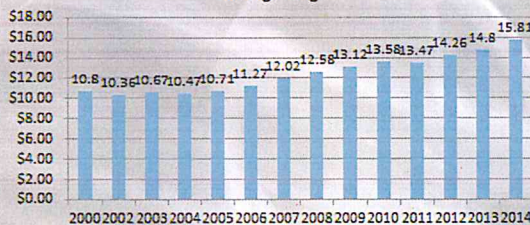
- Spartanburg - \$2,536,678,400
- Charleston - \$2,448,441,546
- Anderson - \$2,185,700,000
- Aiken - \$1,541,150,000
- Laurens - \$1,393,800,000

Source GSA Business Jan. 2014



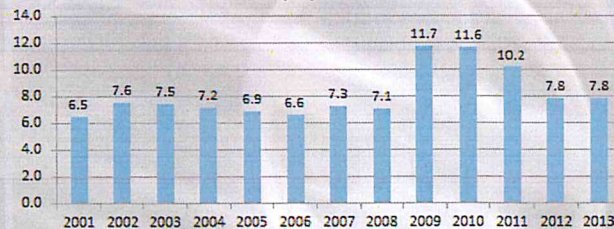
Wages

Average Wage

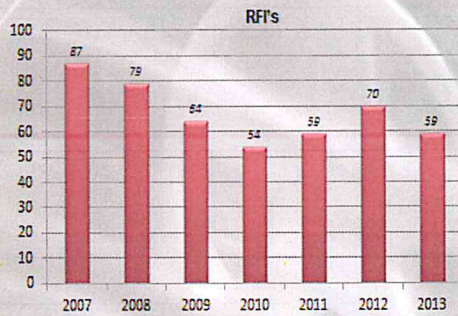


Unemployment

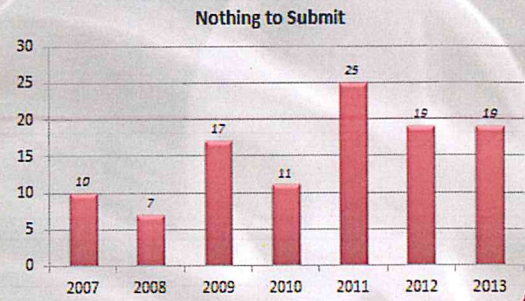
Unemployment Rate



Request for Info

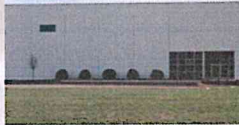


No Buildings



Product Development

- 50,000 SF Spec Building Completed
- Water & Sewer bid out in OIP2
- Hunter Industrial Park upgrade to Class A



Site Visits



Properties Submitted



Marketing

- SEDC Meet the Consultants
- Detroit/SAE Marketing Trip
- Upstate Alliance Meet the Consultants
- Detroit/OESA Marketing Trip

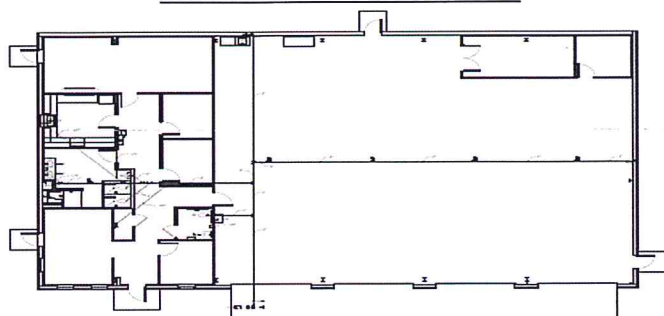
Councilman Nash thanked all involved with the Development Corporation for moving Laurens County forward.

Chairman Coleman stated that Laurens County is now seeing the results of the Development Corporation Agency.

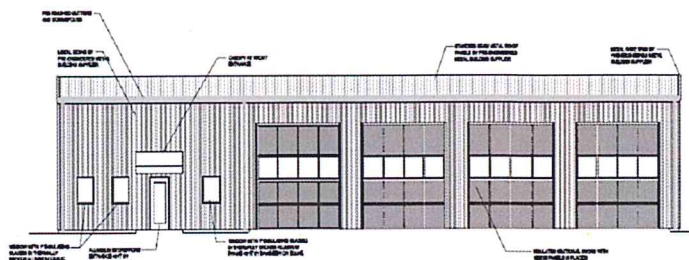
UPDATE ON PENDING CONSTRUCTION OF EKOM FIRE DISTRICT STATION – Mr. Greg Lindley, Director of County Fire Services appeared before Council to provide an update on the reconstruction of the Ekom Fire Station that was destroyed by fire in March of 2013.

PROPOSED FIRE STATION

INTERIOR FLOOR PLAN



EXTERIOR CONCEPT



CONSTRUCTION BIDS

	NA	No Bid	\$
Bagwell Builders			-
Medlin Builders	11:40 AM	12/3/2013	\$366,750.00
Jones Construction	4:20 PM	12/3/2013	\$330,000.00
Davis Construction	4:35 PM	12/3/2013	\$397,983.00
Baker and Son	4:40 PM	12/3/2013	\$335,900.00

Mr. Lindley said that the bids were very competitive with Jones Construction coming in with the low bid.

\$ 217,000.00	Insurance Funds
<\$30,000.00>	Furniture, appliances and etc.
\$ 135,000.00	Additional insurance funds - Codes and Ordinances
\$ 336,000.00	Total Construction Costs
\$ 322,000.00	Available Funds
\$ 14,000.00	Difference
\$ 510,000.00	Current Fund Balance

Continuing Mr Lindley said, “The insurance funds received was two hundred seventeen thousand dollars (\$217,000) and we will need to retain as much as thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for various furnishings such as furniture and appliances. The insurance on the building was for what it would cost to rebuild as the same. The building was built in 1982 and with the codes changing since then, there are additional costs to have the construction up to code. The former building was a block building with no insulation. We are anticipating another one hundred thirty five thousand dollars (\$135,000) to come in from the insurance company to help pay for the difference. We are looking at another fourteen thousand dollars (\$14,000) to make up in the difference. We do have five hundred ten thousand dollars (\$510,000) in the current fund balance with the fire reserve fund and would like permission to use these funds from this account”.

COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to accept the construction bid from Jones Construction for three hundred thirty five thousand nine hundred dollars (\$335,900) and to authorize Greg Lindley to use up to thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) of the fire reserve funds to accommodate the differences in construction costs.
COUNCILMAN WOOD SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

Mr. Lindley added that he hopes to have in hand a formal notice by the end of the month of the ISO ratings for Laurens County – this would not include the City of Laurens or Clinton and Fountain Inn.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – ERNIE SEGARS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - Administrator Segars reported to Council that the county audit had been completed and that the Elliott Davis Auditing Firm would be at the January 28th meeting to review.

Due to certain matters of absence, there was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to have the Auditing Firm attend the February 11th meeting of Council.

Administrator Segars reminded Council of the NAACP Banquet on Saturday evening in Clinton and of the Chamber of Commerce Banquet on January 23rd in Clinton.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Chairman Coleman opened the floor for public comments at 6:00 P.M.

- 1.) Stewart Jones appeared before Council discussing the recent legislation with the National Defense Authorization Act and requested for Council to approve a Resolution opposing the indefinite detention provisions of the Act.

Chairman Coleman thanked Mr. Jones and stated that Council would take this as information at this time.

- 2.) Brian Kellner, a resident of the Joanna Community, informed Council of his recent loss of a dear family pet due to someone shooting him. Mr. Kellner went on to explain that the dog was always in a fenced in backyard and that someone had to have removed him and that he did make a report with the local law enforcement with no action or reporting being implemented.

Mr. Kellner encouraged Council to look into the matter of the law as to filing reports promptly, even though it was a dog, so as to have something in place should it ever happen again.

Having no one else wishing to address Council, Chairman Coleman closed the session at 6:13 P.M.

COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilman Pitts thanked Mr. Moss for his Economic Development update and noted an experience that he had recently had in a county department that made him proud of the County employees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – COUNCILMAN PITTS made the MOTION to move into Executive Session at 6:15 P.M. to discuss one (1) contractual matter. COUNCILMAN TOLLISON SECONDING; VOTE 7-0.

There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to come out of Executive Session at 6:40 P.M.

- 1.) **Contractual Matter** – Chairman Coleman stated that no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business, Chairman Coleman adjourned the meeting of Council at 6:48 P.M. and acknowledged that the Council Committee on Finance and Administration would be meeting following this session of Council.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty C. Walsh
Laurens County Clerk to Council